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Kent

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

1956

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

In Office 1957-58 : Chairman of the Council
Councillor K. Baldwin, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee
Councillor Miss M.A. Powell

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer
F. Tomlinson, F.I.M.T.A., A.R.V.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector
F.W.I. Whitehouse, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Engineer and Surveyor
B.E. Hardy, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mun.E.



Public Health Department, Gate Lodge, The Castle, Whitstable.
Telephone : Whitstable 2233.

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Population	Mid 1956	17,360
Area	7,640 acres.	

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on public health matters for the year 1956. This should be read in conjunction with the Chief Public Health Inspector's Annual Report recently presented.

I thank Mr. Whitehouse and your other Chief Officials and staff for their helpful co-operation during 1956, and wish to express my appreciation of your support in the promotion of the public's health, and of your interest in the matters with which I have to deal.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population : 17,360 Mid-year, compared to 17,250 in 1955, continuing the annual increase of just over the hundred. There was no change in the area of the urban district.

Births: Total 208, 109 male, 99 female. (Total 180 in 1955), giving a crude birth rate of 11.93 per 1,000 population compared with a figure of 15.6 for England and Wales. Correction for population make-up (comparability factor 1.28), gives a corrected live birth rate of 11.64 per 1,000 population.

Deaths: Total 258, 107 male, 151 female. (Total 291 in 1955), giving a crude death rate of 14.86 per 1,000 population compared to 11.7 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. Correction for population make-up (factor 0.75), gives a corrected death rate of 9.36 per 1,000.

There were 3 Infant Deaths, 2 in the first week of life. Seven still births added to the 2 neonatal deaths gives a Peri-Natal mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 live and still births. A similar figure for the United M.O.H. District is 38.6 per 1,000 live and still births.

Cause of Infant Death	Under 24 hours	AGE		Total
		1 day - 4 weeks	- 1 year	
Persistent Atelectasis	-	1	-	1
Prematurity	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1
	1	1	1	3

CAUSES OF ALL DEATHS

Cause	1956	1955	All Causes	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	1	1956	107	151
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-			287
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1955	133	158
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	2			291
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	9			
" " Lung, Bronchus	5	11			
" " Breast	10	6			
" " Uterus	3	2			
Other Malignant Neoplasms	20	29			
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	3	1			
Diabetes	2	2			
Vasc: Lesions of Nervous System	40	49			
Coronary Disease, Angina	39	39			
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	2			
Other Heart Diseases	58	56			
Other Circulatory Disease	19	27			
Influenza	1	-			
Pneumonia	3	7			
Bronchitis	7	5			
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1			
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum	7	2			
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-			
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	3			
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	2			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-			
Congenital Malformation	-	3			
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	14	21			
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2			
Other Accidents	8	4			
Suicide	2	3			

Certain causes of death show a sex prevalence. Cancer of the lung and bronchus is limited to the male sex as is cancer of the stomach. Death from ulcer of the stomach and duodenum has a preference of 5 males to 2 females.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system are commoner as a cause of death in females (30 females - 10 males), as are heart disease, excluding coronary disease and high blood pressure (39 females - 19 males), but these are frequent terminal causes in old age, and with the poorer survival of males the older age groups show a preponderance of females. This abundance of females in the old age groups shows itself in accidents other than motor accidents as causes of death (6 females - 2 males), as accidents are a hazard of frailty.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases in 1956											
Disease	Quarters of the Year				By Age Groups					Totals	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+	1956	1955
Scarlet Fever	3	7	2	11	4	15	2	2	-	23	3
Measles	3	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4	242
Whooping Cough	-	2	7	2	7	4	-	-	-	11	10
Pneumonia	8	3	-	4	2	3	-	7	3	15	13
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia										1	6
Erysipelas										-	4
Typhoid Fever										-	1
Dysentery										1	-
Food Poisoning										-	15
Tuberculosis - Respiratory										5	10
Tuberculosis - Other Forms										-	-

TUBERCULOSIS: Detail

Age Distribution of Notifications of all forms of Tuberculosis

	Male	Female
Under 15	-	-
15 - 25	-	1
25 - 45	-	-
Over 45	2*	2
(* = 1 post mortem notification).		

Totals	2	3
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Respiratory :	Male 2	Female 3
Other Forms :	Male -	Female -

Number on T.B. Register 31st December 1956 (1955 figures in parenthesis)

Respiratory :	Male 89 (85)	Female 58 (56)
Other Forms :	Male 13 (13)	Female 24 (26)

The tuberculosis notification rate did not show any marked increase. There was no visit by the Mass Radiography Survey during 1956.

Measles

The low prevalence during 1956 is explained by the two year cycle of this disease which seems to depend on the growth of a new group of unprotected toddlers to start it up. The next cycle may be expected in late 1957.

	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1954	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
1955	5	4	25	17	93	95	1	2	242
1956	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4

Paratyphoid B

Sewer swab tests showed the continued presence of a carrier of this infection, whose location is known and who because of personal precautions taken has caused no harm to anyone.

Food Poisoning

Although no case was notified during the year a household outbreak was brought to our notice by the householder and was investigated. The outbreak was due to *Salmonella heidelberg* and affected 3 out of 5 of the household. No other cases were discovered in the locality. As it was not possible to implicate any particular food on circumstantial or on bacteriological evidence the incubation period could not be ascertained. A medical member of the Public Health Laboratory Service visited and investigated the outbreak fully because of possible connections with an outbreak elsewhere but results were again inconclusive.

Dysentary

The one case of dysentary was in a boy in a local school who had just arrived from elsewhere. Immediate isolation prevented spread.

Diphtheria

It is a number of years since a case of diphtheria occurred in the town and our immunity to its return will rest on a well protected child population. Welcome publicity was given during the year to the risk that was present in the low percentage of children protected, and the County Health Service responded to the need and were actively engaged at the end of the year in raising the level. Comment would be unfair before the result of that drive shows in the 1957 figures.

Other Matters

(a) Housing Cases

The Council gives sympathetic consideration to housing tuberculous cases in which there is a proved need and the views of the Medical Officer of Health are sought.

(b) Sewage Disposal

Improvement of the existing sewage works is being actively pursued by the Council and its officers. Tests were carried out to assist the Surveyor in his investigations, in the course of which it was shown that at the time of one test pathogenic organisms were present in the effluent, and could pass present treatment. This cannot be an uncommon occurrence on the nearby seaboard with authorities discharging untreated sewage, and we must be greatly protected by the action of the sea water, of sunlight and of the waves.

(c) Rat Diseases

As some apprehension was expressed locally about rats transmitting disease to dogs, arrangements were made whereby local veterinary surgeons could send dog blood specimens to the Public Health Laboratory for check. Although leptospirosis was found to be present in one of two local rats examined, this disease was not found in dogs. The department carried out an eager war on rats throughout the year.

Cockles

Cockle gathering at Seasalter was considered, as there is no prohibition on this, and a batch was sent for bacteriological examination. They were found to be free from salmonellae. One chance examination is not significant and by the nature of the gathering area it should be obvious that such shellfish may not be consumed with safety unless treated or cooked.

Cats

Someday someone may determine the basis of the liberality shown by some elderly females towards cats, which can be a troublesome nuisance to neighbours if the person allows herself to become servant to a cats' kingdom within the house. One such case had to receive attention to the extent of our very limited powers.

No cases were dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act,

Food Hygiene

As the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force during the year, the Council rightly decided to put its own house in order as a lead to others and first attention was given to the kiosks and cafes under Council control.

The whelkers' huts presented a particular problem and a meeting was held to explain the requirements of the regulations and discuss how the difficulties in compliance could be met. A solution is still maturing for those that could not improve existing arrangements.

The Chief Public Health Inspector found that 75% of premises in the town covered by the Regulations required improvements to be carried out to comply. Some of this will take time, but it is a measure of the benefits that will follow the introduction of these Regulations.

Clean Air

The advice of the National Institute of Fuel Efficiency was sought over one case of smoke nuisance from a factory chimney. The intermittent disregard by the wind that it is meant to prevail from South-West and not North-East bring complaints about dust from the tarmacadam plant in the Harbour. As much of the dust arises from the movement of small stone and grit, particularly during a gusty snatching wind and is not the fault of the plant it is frustrating to an improver and diabolical to the houseproud in the immediate locality.

The Other Reports associated with this report are the report presented in February, as Riparian Authority and that presented by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

22nd November 1957.

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT 1956

- Chairman of the Council - Councillor W.C.Harvey, J.P.,
- Chairman of the Health Committee - Councillor Miss M.A.Powell
- Members of the Health Committee - Councillors K.J.Baldwin, J.E.Bryon, G/Capt.J.H.Dand, P.J.Fossey, G.H.G.Foreman, E.J.C.Greenhouse, W.C.Harvey, W.J.King, C.W.R.Large, H.C.Mason, J.P.Prangnell, C.M.Robinson, A.Thompson, Miss M.A.Powell Mrs.E.J.Philips and Mrs.E.Watts.
- Staff of the Health Department - F.W.I.Whitehouse, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector
- G.W.Carr, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector
- P.K.Marsh
General Assistant
- Miss V.Slingsbury
Clerk
- Clerk of the Council and Chief Financial Officer F.Tomlinson, F.I.M.T.A., A.R.V.A.,
- Engineer and Surveyor B.E.Hardy, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mun.E.,

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GATE LODGE,
THE CASTLE,
WHITSTABLE.

12th August, 1957.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Whitstable Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eleventh Annual Report of the
work carried out during the year 1956.

G E N E R A L

Total number of inspections was 4,895 made up as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Milk Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Cafes, Licensed premises etc..	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Food Preparing Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A) 1st Visit	...	...	...	...	...	...	290
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A) Re-visit	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Dwellinghouses (Housing Act) ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	233
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	562
Drains Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Air Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

	(Council Premises..	...	...	...	31
Rodent Control	(Dwelling Houses...	...	...	...	206
	(Agricultural Premises...	...	...	...	16
	(Business Premises.	...	...	...	73
Port Health	...	...	...	...	39
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	123
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	116
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	25
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	155
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	81
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	69
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	94
Bedding and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	16
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	854
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	40
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	157

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Doors and Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	59
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fireplaces repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	30
W.C's repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Ceiling and wall plaster repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Rising and/or penetrating damp	...	...	...	...	...	45
Insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	22

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	494
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(2)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1)) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	9
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	132
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	95
	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	NIL
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-	
(a)	By owners	14
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners.	NIL
3.	C	
	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished... ..	1
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders or Closing Orders were made	6

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the
Housing Act, 1936... .. NIL

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein... ..	3
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	16
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..	1
(c)		Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	2
(d)		Number of persons concerned in such cases... ..	12
(e)		Number of new cases of overcrowding... ..	2

HOUSING PROGRAMME

At the end of 1956 nine properties of the sixty-seven scheduled by the Council in their five year programme had been dealt with. One property was demolished, Closing Orders placed on five others and three houses reconditioned.

NEW HOUSES DURING 1956

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during the year	155
(b)	Total number of houses erected during 1956.	131
(c)	Houses erected by Local Authority	NIL
(d)	Houses erected by other persons	131

MEAT SUPPLIES

There are now no private slaughterhouses operating in the district by virtue of the Council's action in 1954 which resulted in the closure of all slaughterhouses.

Adequate public slaughtering accommodation is available at the City of Canterbury Public Abattoir, and no known difficulties of any nature have arisen. The Abattoir Consultative Committee is in being,

consisting of representatives of those authorities who look to Canterbury for their slaughtering needs, and the fact that this Committee has had so little work to do is indicative of the satisfactory arrangements appertaining.

FOOD HYGIENE

The Food and Drugs Act of 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force on 1st January. This new legislation had long been awaited and with the passage of time will bring about a much higher standard of hygiene than has been the case hitherto.

At the time of the initial inspections of the various types of food premises the proprietors were supplied with an extract of the Regulations, and succeeding visits were and are being made to obtain compliance. A total of 722 inspections was made in connection with this matter. The approximate number of food premises in the area is 264, and comprises 10 bakehouses, 32 cafes, 38 food preparing premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 22 food hawkers registered under the Whitstable U.D.C. Act of 1948, 73 general food premises and stalls, 42 public houses, 20 butchers shops, and 27 club premises, school canteens, nursing homes etc.

Of some 191 premises visited during the year 96 required attention of a structural nature, involving in the main the provision of wash hand basins, sinks and hot and cold water. Towards the end of the year some of this work had been put in hand, although its completion is proving a considerable task, particularly in the older part of the town where accommodation is very limited, but it is generally found that with a little ingenuity the problem can be overcome. Traders are in the main being co-operative and are realising that good hygiene means better business. The public are becoming increasingly hygiene conscious, as evidenced by the type of complaint that one occasionally receives, and this fact will, in the long run, be instrumental in securing and maintaining the standard which Health Inspectors are endeavouring to achieve.

UNSOUND FOOD

Various foodstuffs consisting of three samples of bread, one of milk, two of minced meat, a quantity of cockles, and seven tins of corned beef were taken for examination in accordance with the concurrent powers which the Council possess under the Food and Drugs Act. In two cases warning letters were sent to the persons concerned.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food voluntarily surrendered during the year, for which condemnation certificates were

issued. All unsound food is collected and disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tip.

	lbs
Meat	197
Tinned Meat	289
Fish	623
Tinned Fish	17
Tinned Milk	58
Cheese... ..	111
Tinned Fruit... ..	168
Miscellaneous.. ...	<u>177</u>
	<u>1,640</u>

MILK SUPPLIES

At the end of 1956 there were four registered dairies and fifteen distributors operating in the area. Also in force was one supplementary licence for Pasteurised milk, one supplementary licence for Sterilized milk, one supplementary licence for Tuberculin Tested milk and six dealers bottling licences. Forty-two samples were taken from distributors, all of which passed the prescribed tests, details of which are as follows:-

Eight samples of Tuberculin Tested bottled milk.
Eighteen samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) bottled milk.
Fifteen samples of Pasteurised bottled milk.
One sample of Sterilized milk.

All milk sold in the Whitstable area has either to be Pasteurised, Sterilized or Tuberculin Tested. All the dairies in the town are amply equipped with refrigeration, sterilization and bottle washing facilities.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises originally registered for the sale of ice cream was twenty, but this number has dwindled to three. The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream was 100, and in the majority of cases the ice cream is pre-packed.

Seventeen samples were taken for examination, of which number eleven were placed in Grade 1, four in Grade 2, two in Grade 3 and none in Grade 4.

All samples were found to be free from disease producing organisms.

WATER SUPPLIES

With the exception of the Yorkletts area, which is supplied by the Mid-Kent Water Co., the district is supplied by the Canterbury & District Water Co.

Seven samples were submitted for examination, all of which were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

A new main was constructed to serve the needs of some twelve properties during the year, and approximately 99.7% of the houses in the district have an individual piped supply of water.

SWIMMING BATH

The private sea water swimming bath at Westbeach again operated during the summer. Chemical sterilisation was carried out and bacteriological results of the analysis of the water were of a satisfactory nature.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Four licences were issued in respect of the sale of pet animals. Liaison is maintained with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who regularly visit the pet shops.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

One factory is registered in connection with the use of rag flock for the manufacture of new articles, and there are no premises where rag flock is manufactured. A sample taken under the Act was found to comply with the prescribed standard.

SHOPS ACT

Administration of the Shops Act was carried out under powers delegated to this Authority by the County Council, in connection with which a separate report has already been submitted.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

An improvement was effected during the year in connection with the display of notices, the size and lettering of which were standardized. The various improvements that were suggested by the Fire Prevention Officer of the Kent Fire Brigade in his annual inspection were passed to the licensees concerned, and were satisfactorily carried out.

A considerable number of additional inspections was found to be necessary, and it does seem that with the new Regulations that are being introduced this aspect of the work will tend to increase. Thirty-two storage licences were issued.

PEST CONTROL

The degree of infestation throughout the district was comparatively mild, thirty-one verminous rooms being disinfested.

There was the usual seasonal incidence of wasps nests, and nine nests were destroyed.

FACTORIES ACTS

Routine inspections were carried out, and the following statistics are self explanatory:-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1 - INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	21	23	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	98	112	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	-	20	5	-
TOTAL	119	155	12	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient..	8	7	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act... (Not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	14	14	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The following statistics denote the type of work carried out. Mr.P.K.Marsh is a fully trained operator, and carries out this work in addition to his numerous other activities.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols (1) (2) & (3)	Agricul- tural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. No. of properties in L.A's district	30	6937	1040	8007	21
2. No.of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	1	125	13	139	1
(b) Survey under the Act	29	128	35	192	20
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	5	290	899	1194	-
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	52	688	1014	1754	27
4. No. of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats {Major	2	-	-	2	-
(a) Rats {Minor	1	88	6	95	1
(b) Mice {Major	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Mice {Minor	-	17	2	19	-
5. No. of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by L.Authority	3	105	8	116	1

Contd:

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols (1) (2) & (3)	Agricul- tural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
6. Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	10	126	11	147	2
7. Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out	...	...	...	9	

Two Maintenance Treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year with the following results:-

Test Baiting Treatment - 11th April 1956.

Number of manholes baited ... 38
Number of manholes showing 'takes'... 3

No.1. Maintenance Treatment - 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th April 1956.

Number of manholes baited ... 96
Number of manholes showing
pre-bait take ... 21
Number of manholes showing
complete pre-bait take on
one or both days ... 6

No.2. Maintenance Treatment - 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th October 1956.

Number of manholes baited ... 64
Number of manholes showing
pre-bait take ... 11
Number of manholes showing
complete pre-bait take on one or
both days ... 3

Work carried out on Rodent Control is in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and ranks for grant aid.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Health Department is responsible for the maintenance and supervision of the Public Mortuary, which is situated in Island Wall. The following table gives details of bodies received:-

				Males	Females
Number of bodies admitted:-					
Resident	...	...		8	13
Non-Resident	...	...		1	2
				9	15

Number of bodies admitted for					
Post Mortem examinations	...	...	...	...	24
Number of Inquests	...	...	...	...	7

CAUSES OF DEATH

Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	19
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2
Misadventure	...	...	...	...	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

Disinfection is carried out at the steam disinfecting plant at Station Road, which comprises a vertical cross tube boiler with oval jacketed disinfector.

A total of 40 rooms was disinfected during the year, together with the following articles:-

Mattresses..	...	...	...	...	18
Pillows	...	...	...	...	27
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	4
Blankets	...	...	...	...	22
Sheets	...	...	...	...	16
Quilts	...	...	...	...	10
Cushions	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6
					104

CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of licensed camping sites in the area was twenty, providing accommodation for 1,289 dwellings and comprising a total area of 65 acres.

Public Health licences are issued on an annual basis, and are subject to various conditions relating to hygiene and density. As a result of various breaches of the licensed conditions during the year, a new policy for the control of caravan sites was introduced by the Council, the implementation of which should do much to prevent the growth of unauthorised sites and ensure compliance with the Public Health and Planning Regulations. Arrangements were put in hand for joint inspections to be made in collaboration with the Surveyor's Department, and the additional help and increased time to be devoted to inspection work should prove beneficial.

It was again found that there were insufficient facilities for the stationing of tents, particularly during the peak holiday period. Fortunately this type of camping is usually for a limited period and does not normally give rise to any serious public health nuisance.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly collection of domestic refuse was carried out. The Council's byelaws require householders to bring their bins out for collection, thus effecting a considerable saving in time and manpower.

It is always difficult to recruit men of the right calibre to do this job of collection, and credit is due to them for the way in which they carry out this very necessary but not very sought after work. A difficult period at the beginning of the year was encountered owing to the heavy and prolonged snowfall. The large number of unmade roads in the district means a considerable strain on the vehicles, and necessitates some very long carries when the refuse has to be bagged in canvas sacks.

Two vehicles are employed full time and a standby vehicle is also used on two days of every week. The number of personnel engaged in collection is eight. The vehicles are garaged at two private garages situated in Essex Street and Sea Street respectively, where the facilities for washing down and cleansing leave much to be desired.

Domestic waste paper is collected by means of trailers attached to the refuse vehicles, and a special weekly collection is made from

business premises. Trade refuse is collected according to needs and £64. 19. 0. was received from traders in this connection. The amount of refuse to be collected is constantly increasing by reason of the new estates that are being opened up and the licensing of additional caravan sites.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at the Council's Tip at Yorkletts. The purchase of the Bristol Angledozer early in 1956 facilitated the work of disposal and brought about a considerable improvement in both the consolidation of the refuse and appearance of the site. The use of railway sleeper roads was dispensed with, resulting in a financial saving and a less hazardous approach for the vehicles. The resultant saving of labour has enabled an additional man to be transferred to the collection service.

A further area of land was made available, a portion of the adjoining land being taken over for an equal area of the Tip, after it had been levelled and covered with soil.

The picking rights of salvageable material, other than waste paper, are let off on an annual basis, and produced the sum of £120.

Waste paper is pressed and baled, and during the year amounted to 153 tons 16 cwts. 3 qtrs, which produced a revenue of £1,165. 0. 8.

CIVIL DEFENCE

As Head of the Welfare Section the Public Health Inspector continued to be responsible for its organisation and training. The Section made good progress and took part in Exercises in collaboration with the other sections of Civil Defence. My thanks are due to the Women's Voluntary Service, whose members form the major part of the Corps. Emergency feeding, care of the homeless, billeting and evacuation are our main functions.

C O N C L U S I O N

May I conclude by thanking the Members of the Council for their encouragement and support, Dr. Harvey for his help and advice, my staff for their loyal and able assistance, and the Chief Officers and staffs for their never failing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.I. WHITEHOUSE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

(RIPARIAN AUTHORITY)

1956

In accordance with Form Port 20 this report only shows changes occurring during 1956 and figures concerning shipping etc.

I. STAFF No change.

II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING 1956

Ships from	No.	Tonnage	Inspections		Infectious Disease on Board
			M.O.H.	P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports	6	825	-	2	-
Coastwise	202	21,029	-	24	-
Total :	208	21,854	-	26	-

III. There was no passenger traffic during the year.
Cargo traffic was concerned with :-
Import : Wheat, stone, potatoes, sand and slag.
Export : Durite, wheat and barley.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive :-
London, Middlesborough, Colchester, Flixborough, and Guernsey, with
foreign vessels from Holland and Belgium.

IV. There is no inland barge traffic.

V. There is no change in Water Supply arrangements. A sample taken during
the year for chemical and bacteriological examination was of a satisfactory
nature.

VI. No change in P.H. (Ships) Regulations, 1952, arrangements.

VII. Hospital, Laboratory and Ambulance arrangements are unchanged.

VIII. No change.

IX. No cases of notifiable disease occurred on ships during the year.

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X & XI. No cases of plague or malaria were notified.

XII. Procedure unchanged. No rats caught on shipping or examined.

XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

Nature and No. of Inspections	Notices Served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory	Other	
Public Health and Rodent Control 26	-	-	-

XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948 No change.

XVI. BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS No change.

